

ARTICLE ALERT

December 2012

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

[1] In Search of Soft Power: Does Foreign Public Opinion Matter for U.S. Foreign Policy?
Goldsmith, Benjamin E.; Horiuchi, Yusaku.
World Politics, July 2012

Does “soft power” matter in international relations? Specifically, when the United States seeks cooperation from countries around the world, do the views of their publics about US foreign policy affect the actual foreign policy behavior of these countries? The authors examine this question using multinational surveys covering fifty-eight countries, combined with information about their foreign policy decisions in 2003, a critical year for the US during the post-9/11 period.

[2] How China Sees America
Foreign Affairs, September/October 2012, 12 pages
Nathan, Andrew J.; Scobell, Andrew.

The United States worries about China's rise, but Washington rarely considers how the world looks through Beijing's eyes. Even when U.S. officials speak sweetly and softly, their Chinese counterparts hear sugarcoated threats and focus on the big stick in the background. America should not shrink from setting out its expectations of Asia's rising superpower-but it should do so calmly, coolly, and professionally.

[3] China's Overstretched Military
The Washington Quarterly Fall 2012, Vol 35, No.4, 135-148
Andrew Scobell, Andrew J. Nathan

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is called upon to perform a wide range of missions including maintaining domestic stability, defending territorial integrity, deterring nuclear attack, and soon projecting power. The overall effect is mission overload and military overstretch.

[4] Everything You Need to Know about Susan Rice: The Lowdown on America's Maybe-next Secretary of State
Foreign Policy
Lynch, Colum

While the president seems to be solid in his support of Ms. Rice, criticisms of her are coming not just from Republicans but from several liberal commentators in the media as well. Lynch examines the possibilities of Rice succeeding Hillary Clinton at the State Department.

[5] Who Broke the U.N.?
Foreign Policy, Sept/Oct 2012, 2 pages
Albright, Madeleine K.

Long a target for "reform," the United Nations has taken heat for a bloated bureaucracy and gridlocked Security Council. FP surveyed top experts about what role it should play in today's ever-more-tangled global conflicts, with Madeleine Albright guiding us through the results.

[6] Human Rights, and Wrongs
The American Interest, July/August, 2012
Marusic, Damir.

Damir Marusic wrote this review on Aryeh Neier's new book *The International Human Rights Movement*.

In most ways Neier's The International Human Rights Movement is exactly the kind of book you would expect from one of the founders of Human Rights Watch and the current president of George Soros's Open Society Foundations: a soaring survey of the movement's history that glorifies its triumphs, minimizes its mistakes and demonizes its enemies. But read carefully, Neier suggests a critique of what the human rights movement has become. It doesn't quite amount to an "off-mic" confession that human rights exist in a real, political world and that advocacy must be contingent on these realities. But it does indicate some level of unease among the old guard that oversees the battle for human rights today.

[7] Gaza: Old Struggle, New Realities
YaleGlobal. November 23, 2012.
Rami Khouri

The Islamist-led government of Egypt has brokered a truce to end the fierce fighting and exchange of rocket fire between Gaza and Israel. Israel was poised for a ground invasion, but that's on hold for now. The events reveal old, failed patterns in the Middle East and a seemingly endless conflict that's has long instigated regional bitterness, determination and extremism, writes Rami G. Khouri. He points to new dynamics, too. The Palestinians as underdogs are showing resilience, attracting sympathy and support from neighboring Muslim countries. By balking at negotiating with chosen Palestinian leaders, Israel only produces more hardline replacements. Finally, regional partners are showing more capability in negotiating peace than major powers. Khouri notes, "The new developments in this round of fighting suggest that conditions will not remain static, and former advantages by either side will not remain in place permanently."

ENVIROMENT, ENERGY AND HEALTH**[8] UNAIDS World AIDS Day Report 2012: Results
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. November 20, 2012.**

The report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), shows that unprecedented acceleration in the AIDS response is producing results for people. The report shows that a more than 50% reduction in the rate of new HIV infections has been achieved across 25 low- and middle-income countries--more than half in Africa, the region most affected by HIV. In some of the countries which have the highest HIV prevalence in the world, rates of new HIV infections have been cut dramatically since 2001; by 73% in Malawi, 71% in Botswana, 68% in Namibia, 58% in Zambia, 50% in Zimbabwe and 41% in South Africa and Swaziland. In addition to welcome results in HIV prevention, sub-Saharan Africa has reduced AIDS-related deaths by one third in the last six years and increased the number of people on antiretroviral treatment by 59% in the last two years alone.

**[9] Obama Reasserts Research Focus
Nature, November 13, 2012, 3 pages
Hand, Eric.**

Speaking last week in Washington DC, US President Barack Obama reminded voters of the plan they had effectively endorsed by re-electing him. One of his key objectives, Obama said, would be to ensure that the United States “is a global leader in research and technology and clean energy, which will attract new companies and high-wage jobs to America”.

**[10] Hidden Truths of Health
Discover, July/August 2012
Zeeberg, Amos**

The author, a Discover web editor, examines why and how the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can approve medications that later turn out to be dangerous or fatal, and offers new computer program as a potential solution.

**[11] Cleaning Up Coal
Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012, 11 pages
Morse, Richard K.**

The article discusses methods of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal energy plants. According to the author, increasing the efficiency of coal plants and making use of underground coal gasification (UCG) technologies are important and realistic first steps in reducing negative human impacts on the environment, especially in the developing world. It is suggested that other solutions, such a cap-and-trade plans and the substitution of clean energy sources for coal, may be more desirable but are not achievable in the short term. Details on the history of world coal consumption and on so-called supercritical coal plants designed to increase efficiency are also presented.

[12] Can Technology Save Breakfast?
Smithsonian, June 2012, various pages
Kummer, Corby.

Focusing on breakfast cereals, the author discusses the potential of technology to create less processed foods, closer to their natural state, and explores the possibility of a reduction in artificial coloring.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE ISSUES

[13] The Risks of the Fiscal Cliff Are Uncertain but Real
Ethics and Public Policy Center
Capretta, James C.

Capretta notes that the Congressional Budget Office projects that "the tax hikes and spending cuts now on track to occur beginning in January would push the economy back into recession in 2013." The consequences would include an employment rate back up over 9%. He says that some Democrats want to "play hard ball" with the minority Republicans in the hope of getting more of the president's policies accepted but warns that this would not succeed in the long run.

[14] The 'Fiscal Cliff' and Beyond: Principles for Upcoming Budget Debates
Economic Policy Institute. November 15, 2012.
Josh Bivens

As policymakers begin negotiations on addressing the nation's fiscal challenges, it is crucial that they clearly understand the economic context of the choices they face, according to the report. It provides analyses and recommendations for specific actions regarding both the impending so-called fiscal cliff and future projected budget deficits.

[15] Resource Security: A New Motivation for Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific Region
Pacific Review, September 2012
Wilson, Jeffrey D.

The author, a professor of School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Murdoch University, examines proliferation of regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in the Asia-Pacific and analyses the recent emergence of resource security concerns as a new FTA motive; the corresponding shifts in the FTA strategies and initiatives of Japan, Korea and China; and the dynamics of an emerging race for resource-related FTAs between the three governments.

[16] How to Succeed in Business: And Why Washington Should Really Try
Foreign Affairs (Jul/Aug 2012): 91-101.
Benard, Alexander.

The author, Director of Gryphon Partners, examines U.S. commercial diplomacy and how to help U.S. firms compete with China's state-owned corporations for private-sector dominance in emerging markets.

U.S. POLITICS & SOCIAL PROCESSES

[17] Eight Ways Obama Can Jam Through His Agenda without Congress: The Unilateralist Manifesto
The New Republic
Noah, Timothy

The author goes through a list of policies which President Obama could put into effect with little or no help from Congress.

[18] Why Women Still Can't Have It All
The Atlantic, July/August, 2012
Slaughter, Anne-Marie.

Eighteen months into my job as the first woman director of policy planning at the State Department, a foreign-policy dream job that traces its origins back to George Kennan, I found myself in New York, at the United Nations' annual assemblage of every foreign minister and head of state in the world. On a Wednesday evening, President and Mrs. Obama hosted a glamorous reception at the American Museum of Natural History.

[19] Understanding Shared Roles in Policy and Administration: An Empirical Study of Council-Manager Relations
Public Administration Review, July/August, 2012
Demir, Tansu and Reddick, Christopher G.

Recent literature in public administration emphasizes enhanced collaboration between elected and administrative officials. The complementarity view is presented as an alternative to the traditional politics -- administration dichotomy. At the center of this new perspective ties the concept of shared roles between elected officials and public administrators with respect to policy making and administration. This article expands the emerging literature on role sharing by proposing and testing new variables to understand what enhances the policy-making role of city managers and the administrative role of elected officials. Employing data collected from a nationwide survey of city managers and utilizing structural equation modeling methodology, this research finds that the council's expectations and the city manager's role conception significantly influence the city manager's involvement in policy making, while the context of policy making, the city manager's support, and the council's access to resources affect elected officials' involvement in administration. This article aims to make a cumulative contribution to the literature on role sharing.

[20] Government Transparency and Secrecy: An Examination of Meaning and Its Use in the Executive Branch

**Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. November 8, 2012.
Wendy Ginsburg et al.**

From the beginnings of the American federal government, Congress has required executive branch agencies to release or otherwise make available government information and records. Some scholars and statesmen, including James Madison, thought access to information - commonly referred to in contemporary vernacular as "transparency" - was an essential cornerstone of democratic governance. Today, the federal government attempts to balance access to information with the need to protect certain information (including national security information and trade secrets) in order to achieve transparency. As a consequence, access and protection are often in tension with one another.

**[21] Values, Not Demographics, Won the Election
The New York Times, November 7, 2012, 2 pages
Benenson, Joel.**

Much of the coverage of Tuesday's results has focused on the strength of Barack Obama's coalition — minorities, women and young voters. But that analysis misses the real point. The contours of the 2012 presidential race were shaped less by the country's changing demographics than by the underlying attitudes and values of American voters, who are always far more complex than they appear to pollsters.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

**[22] Free Press vs. Free Speech? The Rhetoric of Civility in Regard to Anonymous Online Comments
Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Fall 2012
Reader, Bill.**

This study explores the issue of "civility" in anonymous comments posted to news media websites. A textual analysis of journalistic essays about the issue and more than 900 audience-member responses to those essays suggests a disconnect between professional journalists and most forum participants over the purpose of such "virtual village squares," particularly with regard to the role of anonymity. Using the theoretical framework of "concordance," the analysis suggests that journalists and audiences have very different conceptualizations about "civility" and the role of anonymity in civil discourse.

**[23] A New Age for Truth
Nieman Reports, Summer 2012
Silverman, Craig.**

'Never has it been so easy to expose an error, check a fact, crowdsource and bring technology to bear in service of verification.' This is one of the articles from the cover story *Truth in the Age of Social Media* of Nieman Report Summer 2012 issue. This issue looks at how the BBC, the AP, CNN, and other news organizations are addressing questions of truth and verification.

[24] The Makings of Maker Spaces, Part 1: Space for Creation, Not Just Consumption
Library Journal, Oct 1, 2012
Lauren Britton

Maker spaces in libraries are the latest step in the evolving debate over what public libraries' core mission is or should be. From collecting in an era of scarce resources to curation in an era of overabundant ones, some libraries are moving to incorporate cocreation: providing the tools to help patrons produce their own works of art or information and sometimes also collecting the results to share with other members of the -community.

Maker spaces promote learning through play; have the potential to demystify science, math, technology, and engineering; and encourage women and under-represented minorities to seek careers in those fields.

They also tie in to the growing trend of indie artists in every medium—including books—who are bypassing traditional gatekeepers, taking advantage of new tools to produce professionally polished products, and going direct to the web to seek an audience.

Maker spaces also acknowledge green concerns by reconnecting consumers to the labor involved in producing what they use. While 3-D printers are perhaps the signature offering of Maker spaces, libraries find that low-tech and low-cost opportunities are just as popular.

Another two pieces of this article are Jennifer Koerber's *Part 2: Express Yourself* and Lauren Britton & Sue Considine's *Part 3: A Fabulous Home for Cocreation*.

[25] Don't Confuse Technology with College Teaching
The Chronicle of Higher Education, August 13, 2012
Hieronymi, Pamela.

This spring, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced a \$60-million venture to offer free classes online. Just last month the University of California at Berkeley said it would also join the effort. John Hennessy, president of Stanford, recently predicted that a technology "tsunami" is about to hit higher education. When justifying their decision to remove Teresa Sullivan as president of the University of Virginia, the Board of Visitors cited, in part, the need to ride this wave.

[26] How Teens Do Research in the Digital World
Pew Internet & American Life. November 1, 2012.
Kristen Purcell et al.

The teachers who instruct the most advanced American secondary school students render mixed verdicts about students' research habits and the impact of technology on their studies. Some 77% of advanced placement (AP) and National Writing Project (NWP) teachers surveyed say that the internet and digital search tools have had a "mostly positive" impact on their students' research work. But 87% say these technologies are creating an "easily distracted generation with short

attention spans" and 64% say today's digital technologies "do more to distract students than to help them academically."

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

**[27] New Sheriffs of the Old West
Commentary, September 2012
Daisley, Stephen.**

The article critiques the U.S. superhero movies "The Dark Knight Rises," directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Christian Bale and "The Amazing Spiderman," directed by Marc Webb and starring Andrew Garfield, noting their relationship to the American mythos tradition found in Western films. It claims that both U.S. superhero and Western films feature a larger than life protagonist, present clear distinctions between good and evil, and rely on American idealism.

**[28] Art and Copyright
Art in America, June/July, 2012
Glenn, Adamson.**

The author argues that artists, artists' rights agencies and artists' estates often overstep the bounds of protection when policing the reproduction of images of artworks. He notes that artists or their representatives often use copyright as a means of censorship, denying authors the right to publish images of their art if they don't like the way it is going to be discussed. The author notes that this state of affairs may change as the Internet imposes pressures on copyright regimes.

**[29] They Taught America How to Watch Football
The Atlantic, October 2012, 12 pages
Cohen, Rich.**

The coach as general. The players as gladiators. Ed Sabol and his son, Steve, have spent the past half century at NFL Films, inventing the tropes of modern football. Color, slow motion, ubiquitous cameras and microphones, the omniscient narrator invoking the language of war—the Sabols pioneered all of this and, in so doing, helped make football the national game.

**[30] Redesigning The Vote
Smithsonian Magazine, November 6, 2012, 4 pages
Stamp, Jimmy.**

Americans head to the polls today to vote for the next President of the United States, as we traditionally have on November Tuesdays since 1845. However, there is no tradition dictating how we vote. In America there is no standard ballot, so depending on where voters live, they may use a pencil, pen, punchcard, lever, or computer. There are thousands of different ballots in America, and while I'm sure many ballots are clear and concise, too many are illegible and confusing. Generally speaking, voting in America is terribly designed. From the queues to the machines to the ballot itself, it seems absolutely absurd that something so important, so absolutely essential to the identity of this nation, should be given so little aesthetic and formal consideration.